

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 02:16:45 1995  
Date: Sat, 15 Apr 1995 23:41:14 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.ULT.3.91.950415232057.4516G-1000000@dua150.kpt.emn.com>  
From: "Barry L. Ornitz" <ornitz@EMNGW1.emn.com>  
Subject: A tardy introduction....

The following is mainly a reply I sent to Dave Sharp. After letting it sit a day or two, I thought it might make a good introduction. I know I listed some of my <probably misguided> credentials a while back in a discussion on chemical safety in this group. I hope this explains a little more about why I like boatanchors and how I got started in ham radio. Dave may note a few corrections in my spelling and grammar over what I sent him. I will add a few additional paragraphs too. I am not sure whether Dave knows how much my ego enjoyed his compliment. For the record - I don't deserve it!

Barry

----- Forwarded message -----  
Date: Thu, 13 Apr 1995 13:19:19 -0400 (EDT)  
>From: Barry L. Ornitz <ornitz@emn.com>  
To: Dave=Sharp%Legal%Corp=Hou@bangate.compaq.com  
Subject: Re: Transformer Construction

On Thu, 13 Apr 1995 Dave=Sharp%Legal%Corp=Hou@bangate.compaq.com wrote:  
> I used to work at Thoardson Meissner making transformers and I couldn't have  
> said it all any better. I really liked the way you provided such a  
> comprehensivce and useful answer wihtout intimidating the guy. You have a  
> natural talent for teaching.

I really appreciate this compliment. Back when I was in graduate school (70's) I HATED teaching. As I get older I find I enjoy it more. I am on the industrial advisory board of the Measurement and Control Engineering Center at the University of Tennessee, so I still have some contact with academics. I don't think I could put up with their petty politics (but we have too much in industry too). I have been using the Internet for about 12 years (I guess it really wasn't the Internet then) and I keep trying to stick with the original concept of the Internet by using the free exchange of information as an educational medium.

I owe a lot of what I am today to some of the old timers in the first ham radio club I ever joined. There were two of us high school kids and a bunch of older fellows. [At least they seemed to be old to us. I guess I am now at 46 about where their average age was then!] They always treated us with respect, answered our (often silly) questions, opened up their "junque" boxes to us, and were great role models. My buddy was into DXing and operating and later was elected the club president. I was into the technical side of things and got into homebrew projects, antennas, and

repairing radios. Something I learned early on was that you could learn from anyone - but sometimes you had to take some of the explanations with a grain of salt. [Everyone had useful practical experience but only a few could really fall back on science and math to back up their knowledge.]

I cannot remember all the great friends that helped me over the years but a few special ones come to mind. Al (K4WQA, now a new call) first introduced me to ham radio. [I was really in poor health one summer. Al was an old family friend who took it upon himself to take me to ham radio classes to get my mind off of my health problems. My problems were really quite trivial compared to Ken (K4VVT) who was a quadraplegic. Al and a number of others in the Greenville, Easley, and Clemson, SC area got Ken started in ham radio. Radio gave Ken a reason to live, and eventually totally change his life. I like to think I helped him some too.] Green (W4CPX SK) gave me a love of surplus, homebrew, and engineering. Jim (WA4UDC SK) was a special friend. When I had just a beginner's driver permit and needed an adult along for me to drive, Jim offered to ride with me to my first Shelby, NC hamfest back when it was held in Cedar Park at Casar. [Shelby was a pretty long trip. I think Jim suffered from some "white knuckle syndrome" but he never complained. I think I have been to almost every Shelby hamfest ever since - except the year I got married that weekend and my wife would not let me go. I made the mistake of taking her to hamfests while we were dating.] Jim (W4PPB) and Lew (W4VRV) taught me about antennas, instrumentation, and communications at Clemson. [Remember my major was Chemical Engineering, I only minored in EE.] Jim was on my MS committee, and both were on my PhD committee. I could always count on them for excellent advice and guidance. Lew was also known for bad puns and bawdy folk songs - I used to accompany his guitar with my banjo picking at a few Field Day outings. [Jim went to MIT. He wrote the definitive article on VTVM's while in school. Lew went to Ohio State and studied under Kraus (W8JK). His graduate work was on radio astronomy.] While in graduate school, I became close friends with our department's electronic technician, Chauncy (W4BL SK) - or, as he was known - Chief. [I think Chief had installed the first RTTY station aboard a naval ship. He taught me such useful things as how to properly wire a MS connector and how to lace cables, and I helped him become active again on ham radio.]

If I ever get a little sentimental about the boatanchors, it is because I remember many of these fellows through association. I find this group to be a lot like that first radio club. We do tend to open our junk boxes up for each other. My junk box, although it is now more of a junque emporium, is still open to newcomers too. I just wish more of them were interested in repair or homebrewing.

[I work for Eastman Chemical Company in their research laboratories in a group that builds custom instrumentation. We do everything from plumbing to microprocessor design. We must all be round pegs in square holes and our boss claims that managing us is like herding cats.]

I enjoy restoring and using boatanchor test equipment and some boatanchor rigs. I have no complaints against good solid-state designs that are more radio than computer, but many modern rigs do not fall in this category. Of course, because something uses vacuum tubes does not make it golden either. I would never restore some of the tube gear occasionally mentioned here except as museum pieces. But then, there are receivers like my R-390A that I would not part with. I LOVE modifying equipment for better performance but this is MY equipment and this is for MY use only - not as something to sit on a shelf. (Like adding solid-state voltage regulation to several signal generators.) I have this "thing" for Tektronix plug-ins too!

I think I had better stop here or everyone will accuse me of being long winded (which I am, unfortunately). But before I quit, let me add that if ham radio is "dumbing down", then we old farts <said with the most affection> are not doing our job properly. Where are the no-code techs and novices going to learn about ham radio if not from us?

Once again, let me say thanks to all the hams who helped me over the years. I know many are now silent keys but I am sure their receivers still monitor the bands - and even the Internet with its really strange propagation.]

73, Barry L. Ornitz WA4VZQ  
ornitz@emn.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 09:59:48 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 08:33:09 -0500  
Message-Id: <9504161252.AA03601@us2rnc.zko.dec.com>  
From: harlan@csoa1.enet.dec.com  
Subject: BC-1003-B INFO?

Yo'Again,

I got "The Worlds Ugliest Radio". Yes My vote is for the BC-1003-X. A component part of the scr503. As far as I know the 503 was used to find Enemy artillery locations by DF'ing thier radio transmissions. I just got the low freq unit. Its 2 rx if strips and mixers driven by a common L0. Covers .1 to 1 mhz in three bands. Ugly as sin too! It has a huge double loop antenna that sits on top of the rx on a neat circular ring with degrees marked all around. theres also a sight glass on the loop. The thing is working with 12vdc on the fils(dc cause its got relays) and I'm putting 200vdc on the plates. It has 4 stages of IF which made me think it could

be quite high in freq. I think about 1.6 mhz. Could this be correct?  
Cant get enough BFO volts to verify and the LO quenches if I hang on  
that. Anyway I looked at the FAIR catalog and saw no listing for  
the manual(big surprise). My set is serial #409 by Continental  
Radio and Telephone Co. and got Funggeesized on july 22'1944.

Army Field Radios=take best navy design,build it like a  
brick %\$@& house,Silver plate it,put it in an armour case,spray it  
with goop,strap it to a kid, push both out of a plane.

Dan Harlan N8ETQ  
Cleve.,Oh.

PS: Happy Easter..My kids were up at 0530!!

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 23:25:00 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 21:58:14 -0500  
Message-Id: <9504161912.AA111100@thrall.pgtp.varian.com>  
From: "Paul Thekan" <pt@pgtp.varian.com>  
Subject: Drake TR - 44B manual ?

Can anyone suggest where I might locate the manual for the Drake TR -  
44 B . When I called the folks at Drake they had no record of having  
ever built this model. I think it came out in about 1968 and was  
geared toward govt. / military use. Any help would be appreciated.

Thankyou Paul N6FEG

Paul Thekan N6FEG  
PT@pgtp.varian.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 03:26:46 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 01:07:06 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.3.05.1.9504160225.C2522-7100000@wx81.tacom.army.mil>  
From: "Mike (ws8d)" <ws8d@wx81.tacom.army.mil>  
Subject: F.S. 75-A4

Thanks to all of you that posted , the Collins 75-A4 I had for sale has  
been SOLD

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 02:12:15 1995  
Date: Sat, 15 Apr 1995 23:33:11 -0500  
Message-Id: <F4FL5028.F4FL5038@mail.admin.wisc.edu>  
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu  
Subject: Free Crystals; last call!

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

As of last week, I've sent out all of the packs of crystals that I had requests for.

Did I miss anybody? If you don't have yours by now, then I did.

In that case, send me a note, and we'll do this one last time.

Tom, K9TA  
tom.a.adams@mail.admin.wisc.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 03:52:58 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 01:34:56 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504160633.BAA12056@zoom.bga.com>  
From: Henry van Cleef <vancleef@bga.com>  
Subject: Re: How to clean dirty tube socket pins?

As David Feldman said

>

> Anyway, all of these tubes are the "miniature" type with the heavy solid  
> wire pins. Does someone have advice on how to clean the socket contacts?

>

A shot of Caig Deoxit D-5 in each socket---then plug the tube back in  
and wiggle it a little to get the Deoxit on everything.

New tube sockets (and Deoxit) can be gotten from Antique Electronic  
Supply in Tempe, Arizona. Some of the pins in 7-pin sockets "fry"  
pretty badly and lose their temper---only solution is to replace them.

--

\*\*\*\*\*  
Hank van Cleef vancleef@bga.com vancleef@tmn.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 22:42:50 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 21:16:03 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504162312.AA03481@shore.shore.net>  
From: Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>  
Subject: Johnson KW Matchbox - at MIT Flea priced at \$375.00

I went to the first MIT Flea of the year this morning (which wasn't too smart because I had a high fever yesterday and its back!). Spotted a fairly clean Johnson Viking II at \$75.00 (SOLD). There was a well-known New York dealer who had a KW matchbox priced at \$375.00 (the bandswitch seemed broken) and a couple of the 275 Watt versions without the meter for \$125.00. He claims that people in Indiana are paying \$450.00 for the KW box.  
Brrrrrrr!

In other areas I understand that the Timtron will be coming to Dayton again this year - I'll invite him to the Friday evening affair. Who knows, maybe he'll show. If he doesn't, you can be pretty sure to catch him at thAM Forum on Saturday.

73

Michael KH6KD/W1

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 22:53:35 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 21:23:14 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504162307.AA03334@shore.shore.net>  
From: Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>  
Subject: More comments on No Code licensing

Hello All:

Not wanting to beat the subject to death, I wnt to add my comments to those of Jeffery Herman and Tony Stalls on the relaxing of the license requirements. This has not be limited to the U.S. - I know that Canada has done the same thing about the same time.

I wrote the Canadian amateur exams in the 1960s. They were tough. You had to draw 8 schematics (not block diagrams), answer 50 technical questions (narrative answers - no multiple guess!), 50 more multiple choice questions on the regs and the CW test - sending and receiving at 10 WPM for 5 minutes, no errors allowed. Once you got through all this you still had to endure a verbal quizzing from a steely-eyed Radio Inspector. Once you managed to get through this you were given all authorization to all amateur frequencies, but you were restricted at A1 emission below 50MHz. After one year of operating you went down to the D.O.T. with your log book and were allowed to write the Advanced license - same ordeal as the Amateur excapt more technical questions on AM (!) and more advanced modes. The code test was 15 WPM.

I am not a very technically oriented person, and neither is my wife Cynthia. She passed her amateur exams at the age of 14 and was for a period the youngest amateur in Canada. I am extremely proud of her.

Now our regulators have opened the floodgates to the drooling CBers, given

them Bash Books and other cheat materials and made it extremely easy to take and retake tests. Since moving to the USA five years ago I have become a member of a VE team and when I officiate I only administer code tests and keep a close eye on the VE team. I have been known to "drop in" on VE sessions wanting to "help". BTW I passed my US tests at the FCC offices not at a VE session.

Now I notice at our radio club the no-coders sit separately from the higher license hams. Its an interesting thing to see. My worry is that soon the no-coders will outnumber the rest of us and be able to take over the clubs. Once that happens, guess what will happen to club oriented events like Field Day?

I do not fault the no-coder licensees - they are just following the rules of obtaining their license. We can only try to educate the newbies and show them there's more to ham radio than 2 meter CB repeaters.

When no-code became a reality a few years ago I was extremely yellified about it. I remember an exchange one night with a total newbie whose ink on his license telling me, my father-in-law and a good friend that we had to identify every ten minutes (and he was wrong because we were in Canada where the requirements are every 30 minutes) and he proceeded to really tear a strip off him for not minding his own Goddamned business.

But in the years to follow I came to the conclusion that its better to have the no-coder hams in out midst than lose the bands to commercial interests like 220 to UPS. At least I can take refuge on the Extra portion of the HF bands - the VIP Lounge of Ham Radio, express my opinions wherever I see fit and participate in the Boatanchors List with real AMATEUR radio operators in discussing and learning about some great old radio equipment.

Both Cynthia and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Dayton - provided I can get this 103 degree fever to go away!

73

Michael KH6KD/W1 also VE2XZ  
Cynthia VE2QF/W1

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 15:40:13 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 14:13:38 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504161801.LAA25581@netcom14.netcom.com>  
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)  
Subject: Much thanx for TR4 help!

Thanks to various helpful people here on the boatanchors list, and a donated copy of the manual & schematic, the \$25 TR4 had it's first QSO this morning on 40M SSB. Several fried resistors were replaced, and lots of tube socket

and pin cleaning was needed. It puts out 175W on 40 SSB, so it looks like it was worth the effort. The most useful troubleshooting tool turned out to be the ICOM 720 acting as a receiver on 9 MHz, allowing me to listen in to each IF stage, allowing me to track down a bad connection in one of the IF transformers. Anyway, thanks again for all the help! 73 Dave WB0GAZ dgf@netcom.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 17:08:04 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 15:41:12 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950416161127.2391B-1000000@laurel.us.net>  
From: Tony Stalls <ras@us.net>  
Subject: Re: NEW TUBES

On Sat, 15 Apr 1995, joe.roberts@tpoint.com wrote:

> I'm pretty excited about WECOs return to tube manufacture,  
> being an audio geek and all. But I can't get too excited about  
> ANY tube that costs \$350 a whack.

Me too/Me neither. Making as relatively few as they probably will, they have to charge that much to stay afloat. However, I find it hard to beleive that even the extreme "high end" (what does that REALLY mean?) audio types might balk at paying that much. My guess is that WECO has an OEM contract with somebody that guarantees they won't go in the hole. WECO has been around for a whild and I can't see them doing this without knowing for certain that they will make out.

> Svetlana, the people who brought us Ruskie RF Pride 811s have some  
> interesting things going on. George Badger, President of Svetlana,  
> is an old timer from Eimac.

That's certainly encouraging! Well, it is if he brings Eimac's quality control to the process anyway.

> Just recently, George sent me some sample Russian 6B4-Gs. They look and  
> measure pretty good. The 6B4-G was a live item in Svetlana's Russian  
> language catalog under a Cyrillic number. Who knows what else they can  
> get? After all, many of the ex-USSR mil rigs are dead ripoffs of old  
> lend-lease equipment from the US.

The receiver that one of my first USSR QSO's back in the late 1950's was using was listed ont he QSL as a BC-348. Someone once told me that the Russians copied it and made one of their own, so it wasn't likely that it was of US origin. Is this folklore?

73,

Tony

+-----+  
| Richard A. (Tony) Stalls, K4KY0 | Arlington, VA | ras@us.net |  
+-----+

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 17:00:54 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 15:34:08 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504162021.QAA02830@espresso.eng.umd.edu>  
From: Philip Gwynne McCoy <dgnova@Glue.umd.edu>  
Subject: Svetlana

To: Joe Roberts  
Question: You wrote the following.

-----  
>From: joe.roberts@tpoint.com  
>Subject: NEW TUBES  
  
>Svetlana,  
>George Badger, President of Svetlana,  
-----

how does one get in touch with George Badger ?  
Philip McCoy e-mail dgnova@eng.umd.edu

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 16:48:54 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 15:22:19 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504162013.QAA02808@espresso.eng.umd.edu>  
From: Philip Gwynne McCoy <dgnova@Glue.umd.edu>  
Subject: SX-117

\$450 for an SX-117 is way way way too much.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 15:47:03 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 14:20:27 -0500  
Message-Id: <950416142551\_85024942@aol.com>  
From: JosephWP@aol.com  
Subject: SX-117 price

Guys,

Share your wisdom with me.

I just saw an ad over on compuserve for a SX-117 (which he describes as a rare unit) for \$ 450. It is described as having a mint front panel and interior. The cabinet has been professionally repainted.

What do you all think of this price??? (I am not thinking of buying it, but trying to improve my knowledge of Hallicrafters stuff and reasonable pricing in general).

Joseph Pinner +  
Lafayette, LA  
KC5IJD  
EMail: josephwp@aol.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 16:40:42 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 15:14:06 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504162006.0AA10417@Freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU>  
From: al511@Freenet.HSC.Colorado.EDU (Robert Neece)  
Subject: Re: SX-117 price

[in response to a query from Joseph Pinner, I wrote:]

Hello Joseph,

>I just saw an ad over on compuserve for a SX-117 (which he describes as a  
>rare unit) for \$ 450. I is described as having a mint front panel and  
>interior. The cabinet has been professionally repainted.  
>  
>What do you all think of this price??? (I am not thinking of buying it, but  
>trying to improve my knowledge of Hallicrafters stuff and reasonable pricing  
>in general).

The trouble with the SX-117 is that it was a good, but not a great receiver. The contemporary Drake R-4 will outperform the SX-117 in most functions. For something rare to command a premium price, it needs to be an outstanding example of the breed. Rare-but-mediocre doesn't cut it.

I myself would not pay as much for an SX-117 as I would for one of the R-4 series of Drakes. I admit that the 117 has \*some\* novelty value, and matches the even rarer HT-44. But, if I were looking for prime Hallicrafters, I'd hold out for an SX-115, a truly high-end example of what Hallicrafters was doing in those days. The SX-117 series was a second-tier offering targeted at people who could not afford the SX-115 and HT-32B combo.

Two examples of SX-117 design deficiencies:

(1) it did not have a truly linear VFO or frequency scale. I'd call the VFO "semi-linear." As a result, the SX-117 dial calibration (and the interpolation function of the dial-skirt markings) is no match for the Drake and Collins gear of the time or, for that

matter, for the top Hallicrafters gear such as the SX-115.

(2) it lacked the outstanding mechanical-filter selectivity of the Collins S-Line and the nifty pass-band tuning capability of the R-4 series.

One can, therefore, obtain better performance in a \$150 Drake. Is the novelty value of an SX-117 worth an extra \$300??? Not to me.

--

q73 de Bob, K0KR

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 17:22:35 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 15:55:49 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950416132429.23996B-1000000@crl7.crl.com>  
From: Steven Wilson <randyw@crl.com>  
Subject: Re: SX-117 price

As a once owner of a SX-117 believe me the price is way to high.

If you want a good receiver get a R4B or R4C, going price about \$200 the last time I seen one. I have a R4C that I have modified many times and would not sell it for less than \$1000.

Also my Sx-117 only liked RCA tubes. Havn't seen those for years.

The radio is super looking, it is my idea of what a ham radio should look like, but the performance isn't there..

Hard to beat a drake used or new. de stan ak0b

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 21:52:43 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 20:25:55 -0500  
Message-Id: <13686@sat.n5lyt.ampr.org>  
From: ki5sl@sat.n5lyt.ampr.org (Rick\_Blank)  
Subject: re: SX-117 price

Private site: Amateur Radio Station KI5SL  
X-Mailer: PCElm 1.11  
Lines: 79

In message <950416142551\_85024942@aol.com> JosephWP@aol.com writes:

> Guys,

>

> Share your wisdom with me.

>

> I just saw an ad over on compuserve for a SX-117 (which he describes as a

> rare unit) for \$ 450. I is described as having a mint front panel and  
> interior. The cabinet has been professionally repainted.  
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> trying to improve my knowledge of Hallicrafters stuff and reasonable pricing  
> in general).  
>  
> Joseph Pinner +  
> Lafayette, LA  
> KC5IJD  
> EMail: josephwp@aol.com  
>

Joseph and the rest of the group:

On Sunday afternoons at 19:00 UTC Matt, KK5DR, hosts the Texas Traders Net on 7235. This is a pretty decent net that reaches at least into Louisiana and Colorado on most Sundays. Today on the net there was an SX-117 and it's companion HT-44 w/power supply for \$400....I still think that's a bit high for the setup, a good price would be in the \$250 to \$300 range for an excellent condition, original (no holes) setup that's ready to put on the air.

So, it again seems as if one of those that don't join us here on the BA group is really out of the loop on this one!

The SX-117 is not that rare of a rig, it is not a bad rig and you can add additional frequency ranges with plug in crystals. It could also be used on LF with an accessory LF preselector.

But as far as it being worth \$450, I think not...you can get R-388's and 51J-4's in excellent condition for that kind of price.

On another note,

Last night (Saturday) I had a great AM QSO with several folks on 3880 and one of them was W5BM, Lou W. Erath. Lou developed a high-end series of loudspeakers in the late sixties that was considered one of the best around. The first and ONLY time I ever heard one was about in 1970 when the rich boy from my high school senior class (you know, the kid who had the brand new XKE) had a set and I got a chance to listen to them. Even with my untrained ear (yes, it does take training, just ask my YL, I've spoiled her!) they sounded magnificent...another story of a ham's ingenuity developing something really neat and another company ruining it by mismanagement of finances...-(

Others in the group included K5BAI, W5TVW, KE4WBN, W10BD and VE3VJA...all in all a nice showing for just one of the active frequencies.

Saturday night seemed real active on 75m, I heard AM QSO's on 3875, 3880, and 3885 khz and all seemed relatively more interesting than the regular run of 75m dreck and drive1....

I would like to see more of this activity with AM'ers during the week, but, I restrict my weeknight ops to between 10:30pm and 12:00am CDT to minimize QRM to my neighbors and to help keep down the local QR-YL!

Keep having fun!

73

--

Rick Blank, KI5SL  
ki5sl@sat.ampr.org  
2223 Blanco Road  
San Antonio, Texas 78212  
end

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 22:02:59 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 17:22:46 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504161545.A10672-0100000@ozarks>  
From: "C. Frank Gilmore" <fgilmore@ozarks.sgcl.lib.mo.us>  
Subject: Re: SX-117 price

On Sun, 16 Apr 1995 JosephWP@aol.com wrote:

> Guys,  
>  
> Share your wisdom with me.  
>  
> I just saw an ad over on compuserve for a SX-117 (which he describes as a  
> rare unit) for \$ 450. I is described as having a mint front panel and  
> interior. The cabinet has been professionally repainted.  
>  
> What do you all think of this price??? (I am not thinking of buying it, but  
> trying to improve my knowledge of Hallicrafters stuff and reasonable pricing  
> in general).

>  
> Joseph Pinner +  
> Lafayette, LA  
> KC5IJD  
> EMail: josephwp@aol.com  
>

Rare? Rare? Lemme climb back into my chair. The one blew the hat off my head. I have no figures on how many were made but I can tell you I sold an average of ten SX-117/HT-44 combos a month for a couple of years and they were not all that great. Actually the SR-150 was a better bargain but the two units sitting side by side looked pretty nice and HT-45 amp they made an acceptable station for casual operation. The '117 was fairly stable, fair selectivity, fair readout of freq. An average receiver in every sense of the word. No real problems with them...they were...average on repairs.

The power supply for the transmitter was another story. Everything seemed pushed to the max and lots of them back in for repairs.

I saw a mint pair (minus amp) sold for \$200 last year at the local Ozarks hamfest.

The introduction of the Drake line blew them out of the market.

73,

de K0JPJ ex-W5PVX ...--

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 22:35:31 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 21:08:35 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504161518.A28604-01000000@netcom6>  
From: "Hal R. Waite" <halwaite@netcom.com>  
Subject: Re: SX-117 price

On Sun, 16 Apr 1995 JosephWP@aol.com wrote:

> I just saw an ad over on compuserve for a SX-117 (which he describes as a  
> rare unit) for \$ 450. I is described as having a mint front panel and  
> interior. The cabinet has been professionally repainted.  
>  
> What do you all think of this price??? (I am not thinking of buying it, but  
> trying to improve my knowledge of Hallicrafters stuff and reasonable pricing  
> in general).  
>

> Joseph Pinner +  
> Lafayette, LA

This is an outrageous price for a cheapened version of the justly famous SX-115. I have both units and there is little comparison between them. The SX-117 has even eliminated two positions of the variable selectivity. The dial mechanism is cheap (my unit has excessive backlash), the case is light metal and painted with a soft gray paint of low quality and scratch resistance. The SX-117 is typical of Hallicrafters production in the declining years. I have seen this receiver and the companion HT-44 (which uses sweep tubes for around \$250-\$300. Stick to the known quality products of Hallicrafters: for instance, the SX-115 and the HT-32B.

In my fondness for Hallicrafters, I recently picked up a very nice copy of the Hurricane SR-2000, a desktop rig not much bigger than the KWM-2 (ignoring the separate but not-too-large power supply) that puts out an honest 1000 watts from a pair of 8122's. The cabinet does suffer from the miserable gray paint of that period but the front panel and interior are near perfect. Readout is just like the Collins and stability is excellent. I was pleasantly surprised by the high quality of this rig, produced as it was during Hallicrafter's twilight years.

If you buy the right Hallicrafters equipment, you will have an excellent unit at a reasonable price. I avoid Collins, which I used extensively in the 50's and 60's as a kind of reverse snobbery!

Hal K4GFI/7 in Las Vegas halwaite@netcom.com A Collins-free environment.

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 22:57:58 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 21:31:04 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9504161612.A19675-01000000@netcom18>  
From: paul Veltman <veltman@netcom.com>  
Subject: Re: SX-117 price

> rare unit) for \$ 450. I is described as having a mint front panel and  
> What do you all think of this price??? (I am not thinking of buying it, but

Joseph,  
I think about the same as the \$900 75A-4. It'll be a cold day in hell before I'll put out that kind of money for that rig.

73

Paul WA6OKQ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 23:31:15 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 22:04:29 -0500

Message-Id: <950416222535\_85434657@aol.com>  
From: JosephWP@aol.com  
Subject: Re: SX-117 price

Folks

I thought that the price was way..way..way...out of line, but I am not that much an expert on Hallicrafter's gear. As I said, I am not really interested in buying it, but just wanted to get some input from you all to broaden my knowledge of prices and quality.

I guess I must disagree about Collins. I know that the prices are somewhat high (though not really for the S-Line), but so is the quality, durability, and maintainability of the gear. If there is a mystique, it comes from this. I have a number of Collins sets and would not part with them. The 75A-4 and 51S-1 are particularly find radios.

Also value my Hammarlunds, too. I am just not as knowledgeable about Hallicrafters.

Thanks again for all the response.

Joseph Pinner +  
Lafayette, LA  
KC5IJD  
EMail: josephwp@aol.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 23:39:18 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 22:12:32 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504170305.XAA19213@pharos.cs.unc.edu>  
From: Nick England <nick@cs.unc.edu>  
Subject: SX-117/HT-44 for sale

THis is purely coincidence coming in the middle of the SX-117 price conversation, but I got a call from a friend without e-mail access who has the following for sale. Call him as I have not seen the rigs.

For Sale - SX-117 + HT-44 + speaker/power supply  
good condition  
asking \$350  
Will Whittaker  
704/567-1414  
(Charlotte, NC)

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 01:25:40 1995  
Date: Sat, 15 Apr 1995 22:36:56 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.ULT.3.91.950415213245.4516B-1000000@dua150.kpt.emn.com>

From: "Barry L. Ornitz" <ornitz@emngw1.emn.com>  
Subject: Re: test gear (TEK 580 series scopes)

On Fri, 14 Apr 1995, John Shriver wrote:

> There's the Tek 581 and 585, which squeeze out to 85 MHz, very  
> complicated circuit, lots of tubes, only 4 cm vertical deflection,  
> only uses (rather rare) 80 series plugins, not worth the hassle for 35  
> more MHz.

I would like to clarify this a little bit because the 580 series scopes do not "squeeze" out the extra 35 MHz.

Most oscilloscopes have a frequency response that is pretty square - i.e. their response is fairly flat up to their cutoff frequency and then it falls to zero very quickly. This is achieved by using video peaking circuitry to enhance the scope's high end gain to partially compensate for the natural roll-off in response. The TEK 530 and 540 series of classic laboratory scopes and the 450-460 series of portable scopes fall in this category.

The 580 and 585 TEK scopes are different. They use a very special CRT with multiple deflection plates. The deflection plates are connected to a set of distributed amplifiers with a matched delay response. Post deflection acceleration is also used. The result is that as the electron beam goes down the tube, the delay lines in the distributed amplifier insure that the deflection signal is applied to the proper deflection plates in sequence. The result is an extremely wide frequency response.

The 80 MHz rated response for the 580 and 585 is a little misleading. Above this frequency, the response does drop off. But it does so gently, not abruptly like most oscilloscopes. In fact, using my type 82 plug-in in my TEK 585, I get a relatively decent deflection response at 450 MHz. The triggering circuitry in the 585 is capable of triggering properly up to 500 MHz or so. I get a smaller, but usable, deflection at 450 MHz using my 1A4 plug-in. I do not see anything at 450 MHz with my 7604 or the 100 to 150 MHz portable scopes I have here in my lab at work.

TEK made an adapter for the 580 series of scopes called the 81 (I think, because my scope is at home and I am at work). This contains a power supply and amplifier that fits in the normal slot of the scope. Any TEK letter or number plug-ins can then be used in the scope by plugging them into the 81. The result is that the plug-ins stick out an extra two inches or so from the front panel, the thickness of the 81 adapter.

The TEK 585 is probably one of the most complicated laboratory scopes made, and parts and replacement CRT's are sometimes difficult to find. However, large numbers were made and the prices are still reasonable at hamfests. I consider the 585 to be one of the best boatanchors I own.

Even though I now own a 7000 series TEK scope, I usually use the 585 with the 1A4 four-channel plug-in (except in summer when the 800+ watts of heat the 585 puts out strains the heat pump! - but is sure feels good in the winter!).

I still collect plug-ins too. You can probably find me at Dayton looking for these and their manuals. I am still looking for the 15 MHz operational amplifier plug-in and 10 MHz-up spectrum analyzers at reasonable prices. I have an extra 1A4 for trade too and might (but I doubt it) part with my 1L5 low-frequency spectrum analyzer. The transistor rise-time and diode recovery time plug-ins might also be up for trade - especially now that I have a curve tracer plug-in for the 7000 series scope.

73, Barry WA4VZQ ornitz@emn.com

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 02:01:47 1995  
Date: Sat, 15 Apr 1995 23:35:42 -0500  
Message-Id: <F4FL3437.F4FL3447@mail.admin.wisc.edu>  
From: TOM.A.ADAMS@mail.admin.wisc.edu  
Subject: TO RICK FERRANTI

to: boatanchors@theporch.com

Sorry to use bandwidth like this; my apologies to the net.

Rick,

I was unable to call you directly; your address has a character in it that I don't have available on the WANG keyboard!

Re. the videotape you wanted a copy of; I was unable to make a usable copy, due to the use of Copyguard on the Beta original. Every attempt came out really bad, and I can't find an excuse to drag the Beta in to work to strip off the Copyguard with our equipment (the boss draws the line at SOME things!).

I just wanted you to know that I wasn't ignoring your traffic; I was having some problems answering.

73's,

Tom, K9TA

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 23:04:41 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 21:37:52 -0500  
Message-Id: <199504170126.UAA02704@uro.theporch.com>  
From: n7oo@hereford.ampr.org (Jack Taylor)

Subject: Tube rebuilders (was: NEW TUBES)

My lovely 833A and 100TH laying here with broken filaments makes me wonder if it's economically feasible/practical or possible to have new filaments installed? I remember in "the good old days" when the CRT in the teevee got dim, there were folks who, for a reasonable price, would put a new filament in. When the selling prices of teevees got to the point where it was cheaper to buy a new teevee, than it was to repair and align the CRT, most of the rebuilders went away. Even today though, I've been told that Eimac will rebuild some of their more expensive transmitting tubes.

73 de Jack

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 09:20:10 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 07:53:33 -0500  
Message-Id: <9504161237.AA03357@us2rnc.zko.dec.com>  
From: harlan@csoa1.enet.dec.com  
Subject: VT4 211 FAIR PRICE

Yo'

I have an OT ham friend,  
real inactive but does like to "do dayton" who is taking 3 nib  
vt4's down there to possibly trade for somethin or he mentioned  
they were probably worth 25 or 30 bucks apiece. I told him about the  
info I hav seen here on the net and would check on a realistic value.  
I dont wanna see the old guy get ripped

Thanks Dan N8ETQ

From boatanchors@theporch.com Sun Apr 16 17:16:21 1995  
Date: Sun, 16 Apr 1995 15:49:35 -0500  
Message-Id: <Pine.BSI.3.91.950416162147.2391C-1000000@laurel.us.net>  
From: Tony Stalls <ras@us.net>  
Subject: Re: When all the tubes are gone...

On Fri, 14 Apr 1995 William Hawkins

> Well, nobody's picked up on my suggestion to open hi-end audio repair  
> shops.

There was a story on CNN this past week on one in California (surprise!)  
that specialized in vinyl and tube gear. It seemed to be very much as you  
described as our kind shop excpt for the part about steering them away

from those dusty old VT-4C's.

I like your idea. Put me on the VT-4C/211 waiting list! ;^)

73,

Tony

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+-----+-----+-----+
| Richard A. (Tony) Stalls, K4KY0 | Arlington, VA | ras@us.net |
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